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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

H. WATANABE et al.

Confirmation No.: 6176

Serial No. 10/721,088

Group Art Unit: 2188

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Examiner: K.L. Ellis

For: STORAGE SYSTEM

Customer No.: 24956

AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 31, 2006, please amend the
above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of
this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.